
CONSULTATION REPORT

**Proposal to change the age range from 4-11 to 3-11 in
Ysgol Gynradd Betws**

Appendix A

List of Respondents to the Consultation Document

Appendix B

**Summary of observations received following publication of the Consultation Document
and Local Authority related responses**

CATEGORY	OBSERVATION	RESPONSE
<p>No. 1</p>	<p>Proposal to change the age range from 4-11 to 3-11</p> <p>Agree with the proposal</p> <p>1. With regards to the change of age range at Betws C.P, I would support this change 100%. It would not only benefit the school, by putting it on a level playing field with other schools in the area who have this provision, but it would also help parents return to work earlier by providing full time education for their children from the age of 3.</p> <p>1.1 I strongly agree with the proposal to change Ysgol Y Betws to 3-11 educational school. It will give parity with other schools in the region that offer the same; smooth transition from flying start to the nursery at Ysgol y Betws; it gives parents the opportunity to return to work; learner outcomes will be enhanced as learners are integrated into an appropriate learning environment from an early age. It gives the children the opportunity to start learning welsh from an early age.</p> <p>1.2 I strongly agree with the proposal to change the age range of Ysgol Betws to 3-11. It makes sense that pupils in Flying Start and Cylch y Felin start at school when they are 3 years old. It will be a smooth transition from one class to the next. There is enough room in the Nursery at the school to accommodate pupils aged 3 years old. It gives the pupils of Ysgol Y Betws equal opportunity as Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman as those pupils attend Ysgol Feithrin Rhydaman. Starting at the school at 3 years old will give pupils with additional needs a solid start. It will allow parents to return to work sooner. Starting</p>	<p>Proposal to change the age range from 4-11 to 3-11</p> <p>Agree with the proposal</p> <p>1. The support was noted.</p> <p>1.1 The support was noted.</p> <p>1.2 The support was noted.</p>

	<p>their education sooner will contribute to raising the pupils educational standards. Starting school at 3 years old will allow pupils to learn Welsh sooner.</p> <p>1.3 Betws has a Flying Start nursery which caters for 2 to 3 year olds, and at the moment there is a gap between leaving the nursery and attending the Primary school. Catering for 3-11 year olds will fill this gap and ensure that Betws children remain in the education system. Members of Betws Community Council strongly recommend that the school be given the 3 to 11 year old designation.</p> <p>1.4 I strongly agree with the proposal to change Ysgol Betws to a 3-11 education setting. I feel that it will be beneficial to children and parents. It would give parents an opportunity to return to work/education sooner. There would be a smooth transition from Flying Start to the nursery at Ysgol Betws. It will give learners from an English background an opportunity to start learning Welsh early. Learners are integrated in to an appropriate learning environment from an earlier age meaning better learning outcomes.</p> <p>1.5 I strongly support the proposal to change the age range Ysgol Y Betws from 4-11 to 3-11. Between the age of 3-4 children are usually very ready to become part of a team both educationally and socially. This extra year would become a very good foundation for their future progress. In addition, possible learning problems and their causes could be identified in their early stages and appropriate help provided. There can also be benefits for the well being of family life.</p>	<p>1.3 The support was noted.</p> <p>1.4 The support was noted.</p> <p>1.5 The support was noted.</p>
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	<p>1.6 I strongly support the proposal. The provision for children at 3-11 primary school will allow young children in the Betws area to smoothly progress from Flying Start into nursery provision and then onto the Foundation Phase. It is important that the children of Betws have parity with other children in the area. During the pilot, parents have supported the arrangement, as many want to return to work and want their children to be in a stimulating school environment. I am totally confident that learner outcomes will be enhanced as learners are integrated into an appropriate learning environment from an earlier age. Introducing the pupils to the school at an earlier age will also enable the pupils to be immersed sooner in the Welsh language. I strongly believe that the children of Betws should have the same opportunities as the pupils of Ammanford and Camaman, and that provision for three year olds should be available for them at Ysgol Y Betws.</p> <p>1.7 Please find this letter as a support information. My son attends nursery class and started full time when he was 4 years old. Looking at the past, it would be more beneficial for us as parents if he started school when he was 3 years old instead of attending for 2.5hours a day which resulted in us couldn't work full time because of this. You should also take into account that other nursery/primary schools in the area have got such facilities where children start school when they are 3 years old.</p>	<p>1.6 The support was noted.</p> <p>1.7 The support was noted.</p>
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	Additional Resources	Additional Resources – LA Response
	<p>2. Concerns about the resource implications that need to be answered. How will the changes be monitored? The school has already a high level of children with special needs. What additional support will be given?</p>	<p>2 Staff resources will be allocated depending on the number of pupils. Staff, pupil ratio will be met. Changes will be monitored as part of the school self evaluation process, and any concerns monitored as part of the authority core visits. Support for pupils with additional learning needs will be discussed and monitored on an individual basis.</p>

Appendix C

ESTYN RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Estyn response to the proposal to increase the capacity and pupil age range of Ysgol Betws Primary School

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortia which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

Introduction

The proposal is by Carmarthenshire County Council.

The proposal is to change the age range at Ysgol Betws from 4-11 to 3-11 as soon as possible, to enable the incorporation of nursery provision.

Summary/ Conclusion

It is likely that the current proposal will at least maintain education provision and outcomes for pupils in the area.

Description and benefits

The proposer has set out a clear rationale for the proposal. This suitably focuses on the need to change the school's age-range to provide for pupils aged 3-4. This is to ensure pupils experience a seamless transition through Flying Start into Foundation Phase. This proposal is set appropriately in context of the council's wider strategy to provide maintained nursery places for children who currently benefit from the Flying Start programme.

The proposal describes its principal benefit is to ensure pupils experience continuity in provision as they make the transition from Flying Start into Foundation Phase at an early age. It suggests reasonably, that pupils in a nursery setting would benefit from interventions already provided through the school's Flying Start provision. The proposer does not identify any disadvantages with this proposal.

Appropriately, the proposer includes reference to the most recent buildings condition survey in 2001 and states that the council has modernised and extended the school.

It provides useful information about the accessibility of the site for disabled users and describes the overall condition and suitability as reasonable. The proposal confirms appropriately that the school will continue to serve its current catchment area so there will be no change to the travel arrangements for pupils.

The proposal provides a concise analysis of the school's projected pupil numbers for the next five years. It uses this information well to calculate the school's capacity for 16 full-time equivalent nursery pupils. However, the proposer does not provide enough information about where or how the school will accommodate these additional places. The council predicts surplus places in the school to decrease from its present position of 27% to below 20% by 2020.

The proposal does not provide enough information about how the council will manage any risks associated with the proposal or if any suitable alternative arrangements have been considered or discounted.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposal suitably considers the positive impact of the proposal on pupil outcomes and wellbeing. It sensibly explains that the proposal will improve continuity and progression for pupils, after leaving Flying Start, in nursery provision, which delivers the full Foundation Phase curriculum. This includes facilitating the sharing of important information about pupils' needs and abilities to provide appropriate levels of care and support. However, the proposal provides limited information about the impact on leadership and management, particularly around developing mutually beneficial partnerships between the school and Flying Start provider.

The proposal includes a useful summary of the how the services currently provided by Flying Start benefit vulnerable families for children aged 2-3. It provides relevant contextual information about the school's community, which it describes as "underprivileged and socially deprived", and the relatively high percentage of pupils identified with additional learning needs. However, the proposer does not link this information clearly enough to how the proposal will benefit pupils aged 3-4 from these vulnerable groups.

The proposer has provided a satisfactory summary of the outcomes of the most recent Estyn inspection report and the current categorisation of the school. From this, information the proposer reasonably concludes that the school is effective and has a good understanding of its areas to improve.

The Local Government Response to Estyn

The proposal provides a concise analysis of the school's projected pupil numbers for the next five years. It uses this information well to calculate the school's capacity for 16 full-time equivalent nursery pupils. However, the proposer does not provide enough information about where or how the school will accommodate these additional places. The council predicts surplus places in the school to decrease from its present position of 27% to below 20% by 2020.

The school's Capacity Calculation pre admitting nursery age pupils was 114 with an Admission Number of 16, with the introduction of nursery age children. The Capacity Calculation has been revised to accommodate these additional pupils and results in the reduction of the school's capacity to 104, establishing a capacity of nursery of 14 therefore consequently reducing the Admission Number for the school to 14 and thus creating the space required.

The proposal does not provide enough information about how the council will manage any risks associated with the proposal or if any suitable alternative arrangements have been considered or discounted.

Risks and Counter Measures were included in the Supplementary Information which was sent out to all Stakeholders via e-mail on 22/12/15.

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The content of the proposal will both reinforce and enhance current partnership in an effective and practical manner. All partners will benefit from additional tiers of collaboration which will be in place to support individual learner needs from the age of three onwards. The beneficial impact and progress of such collaboration will be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis during link partnership meetings.

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The proposal will ensure enhanced benefits for vulnerable learners aged 3-4 through a range of provision which is planned, monitored and reviewed by all partners - including pupils and parents. The proposer views provision for all learners, including those from vulnerable backgrounds, as one comprehensive continuum, wholly focused on individual needs and requirements.

Appendix D

Consultation with the Pupils

Consultation undertaken on the 3rd February 2016

By

Mrs Mari Owen

Associate Challenge Adviser

Carmarthenshire County Council

Carmarthenshire County Council

Listening to 'Learner Voice'

School – Betws

Date: - 3rd February 2016

Session undertaken by Mari Owen

Interviewed School Council / Pupils

1. Would you like to be part of a bigger school that has more pupils?

Comments

- Everyone was in agreement that being a pupil in a growing school will be a good thing

2. Do you think it's a good idea for the school to become 3-11?

Comments

- It will be good idea to become a 3-11 school because the older children will be able to help the smaller children
- It is a good idea to start learning Welsh a year early for children in Betws
- 3 year old children will be able to learn how to behave properly in the school which will be a good thing

3. What would be the advantages of a 3 - 11 school? What would you look forward to most?

Comments

- Parents of 3 year old children will be able to work and earn money instead of having to look after the children
- Sending 3 year old children to school will mean less cost of looking after the children
- There will be more pupils at the school and the school will be able to teach more to the children
- All the pupils will have more friends
- During Assembly, Mr Morgan's after school Club and Breakfast Club will be a good opportunity to get to know the 3 year old pupils better
- There is enough room on the yard for everyone to play together

4. Are there any disadvantages? Is there anything that you would be worried about?

Comments

- None of the pupils felt there were any disadvantages in having a 3-11 school
- Maybe the smaller children will be bother the older children sometimes